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Featherstone Urban District Council.



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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

1925.

Printed by Harris Bros., Featherstone

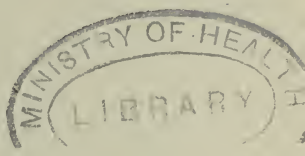
With Compliments

—from the —

Medical Officer of Health.

Featherstone,
July, 1926.

Featherstone Urban District Council.



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Urban Sanitary District of Featherstone, for the year 1925

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you my Sixth Annual Report on the Health of your District, for the year ending December 31st, 1925, along with the Report of my Sanitary Inspector—Mr. Handforth.

The Population of our District as given by the Registrar General is 15,890, an increase for the year of 180, giving a census per house of 5·1.

The size of this Urban District Area is 4,430 acres. In 1921 there were 2,930 inhabited houses, with a population of 15,110. For the year 1925 there are 3,092 inhabited houses with a population of 15,890, being an increase over 1924 of 180.

The number of New Houses completed and occupied during 1925 is 69, and in course of erection in December, 49. The Council has made arrangements and is at present erecting another 150 houses.

The Rateable Value for the year was	£99,215	18s.	0d.
The Assessable ,, ,,	£88,596	4s.	6d.
One Penny Rate equals	£366	9s.	2d.

The Rate laid for the current half-year was 3/6 per pound.

POOR RATE. The Poor Rate for the four townships varies, but the average for the whole is 5/11½d. per pound. The total receipts for the whole area are £28,199 15s. 4d.

This Urban Area, some years ago, comprised four Townships, Featherstone, Purston, Snydale and Aketon. Now Featherstone and Purston are one, with Snydale 2 miles to the west, and Aketon a rather greater distance to the north. They are all typical Coal Mining areas, receiving the same water supply; lighting—both streets and houses—from similar sources; and scavenging common to all. Within this area are four Collieries, each with a large spoil heap or "muck stack." Three of these spoil heaps are in active conflagration, pouring out fumes and smoke. The refuse of these spoil heaps is strongly impregnated with sulphur, which becomes volatilized. Sulphur fumes are germicidal to bacteria, but they are destructive to all vegetation, and injurious to all human beings who have the misfortune to live in the immediate surrounding. Besides the injurious gases poured out, the smoke itself produces a canopy, through which the rays of the sun—so essential for our well-being—are greatly impaired in effectiveness.

BIRTH RATE. 405 Births were registered during the year—214 being males, and 191 females (14 of the total births were illegitimate). This is an increase of 51 births from the previous year. This gives a Birth Rate of 25·4. Last year the Birth Rate was 21·8. For the last five years the Birth Rates were:—

1921 - 29·9
1922 - 27·8
1923 - 24·1
1924 - 21·8
1925 - 25·4

(The Mean Birth Rate for five years being 25·8)

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1925 is 18·3, which gives an excess of 7·1 in Featherstone.

DEATH RATE. 179 Deaths were registered during 1925 (101 males and 78 females). This gives a Death Rate of 11·2. For the last five years the Death Rates were:—

1921 - 13·6
1922 - 10·7
1923 - 12·8
1924 - 14·2
1925 - 11·2

(The Mean Death Rate for the five years being 12·5).

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1925 is 12·2.

Our Urban District thus shows not only a considerable increase in the Birth Rate over England and Wales, but likewise a decrease in the Death Rate. This is the second lowest Death Rate ever recorded in our area.

Of the 179 deaths, 58 were 60 years of age and upwards, and 40 did not live one year.

You will find the Causes of Death, with ages, in subjoined tables.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Enteric Fever	1	
Whooping Cough	4	2
Diphtheria	1	
Influenza	1	
Tuberculosis of Lungs	5	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	
Cancer	6	7
Diabetes	2	1
Cerebral Haemorrage	4	4
Heart Disease	8	7
Bronchitis	12	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	
Appendicitis	1	
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)		1
Puerperal Sepsis		3
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		2
Congenital Debility	8	4
Suicide	2	
Other deaths from Violence	9	2
Other Defined Diseases	16	20
Causes Ill-defined or unknown		2
Total	101	78
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total ...	24	16
,, ,, ,, —Illegitimate	1	1

Causes and Ages at Death during the Year 1925

CAUSES	All Ages	Under 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15-25 yrs	25-45 yrs	45-60 yrs	Ov'r 60 yrs
Enteric Fever	1						1		
Whooping Cough	6	3	3						
Diphtheria	1			1					
Influenza	1							1	
Tuberculosis of Lungs	14				1	6	5	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2		1	1					
Cancer	13						3	6	4
Diabetes	3							2	1
Cerebral Haemorrage	8							1	7
Heart Disease	15		1		2		1	2	9
Bronchitis	19	5	1	1			1	1	10
Pneumonia	23	9	4	2		2	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1								1
Ulcer of Stomach	1								1
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	1	1							
Appendicitis	1					1			
Nephritis	1							1	
Puerperal Sepsis	3					1	2		
Other Diseases of Pregnancy	2						2		
Congenital Debility	12	12							
Suicide	2						1		1
Other Deaths from Violence	11					1	5	2	3
Other Defined Diseases	36	10	1		1		3	4	17
Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown	2							1	1
Totals	179	40	11	5	4	11	26	24	58

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population									Rate per 1000b'ths		Percentage of Total Deaths		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioner	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	·01	none	·13	·03	·15	·07	.32	.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs & Great Towns incl. London	18·8	12·2	·01	none	·17	·03	·18	·09	.30	.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	.6
157 Smaller Towns ...	18·3	11·2	·01	none	·15	·02	·14	·06	.31	.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London	18·0	11·7	·01	none	·08	·02	·19	.11	.23	.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	.0
FEATHERSTONE ...	25·4	11·2	·06	none	none	none	·37	.06	.06	.69	2.4	98	99.3	7.8	.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is measured by the proportion of Deaths under one year, to 1,000 Registered Births. The total Deaths under one year during 1925 are 40, and the total Births, 405. This gives an Infantile Mortality of 98.

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales is 75.

The Infantile Mortality for the last five years:—

1921	-	150
1922	-	68
1923	-	99
1924	-	122
1925	-	98

(The Mean Rate for the five years is 107).

The chief causes producing this Mortality were:—

Chest Affections (Bronchitis, 5; Pneumonia, 9) ...	14
Congenital Debility (Weakness at Birth) ...	13
Other Defined Diseases	10
Whooping Cough	3

As a general rule, a high Birth Rate is accompanied by a high Infantile Mortality, and it is well known that most Colliery Areas have an Infantile Mortality above the average. I cannot ascribe the cause to poverty. There is serious overcrowding in this area, and an atmosphere ladened with smoke and coal dust. Each of these causes takes its toll of human life. Many houses have two families, and the receptacles for the storing of food, in nearly all the houses, are not only inadequate, but ill designed, adversely influencing the health of the young child. Add to those evils the giving of improper and indigestible food, by thoughtless parents. A baby badly fed becomes a child ill-nourished and lacking in resistance. Overcrowding and an impure atmoshere must be largely contributing factors to Chest affections.

Breast feeding of infants, I am pleased to say, is now largely carried out.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases are as follows:—

Enteric Fever	-	1
Whooping Cough		6
Diphtheria	-	1
Diarrhoea	-	1
Total		9

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of ·5

For the last five years the Rates have been :

1921	-	1·4
1922	-	·6
1923	-	·3
1924	-	1·7
1925	-	·5

(Average for five years, ·9)

The following table will show the number of Infectious cases notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	17	
Diphtheria ...	...	5	
Measles ...	...	26	
Pneumonia ...	...	28	
Erysipelas ...	...	9	
Typhoid Fever	...	1	
Ophthalmia	...	1	
		——	90
Tuberculosis Pulmonary		53	
Tuberculosis, Other Forms		15	
		——	68
		Total	158

The cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric, were all removed to the Isolation Hospital at once on notification.

No provision for nursing is made for Measles or any other serious form of illness.

Whooping Cough, Mumps and Diarrhoea are not notifiable.

CHICKEN POX has been prevalent for part of the year amongst children. A strict look-out has been kept amongst them.

VACCINATIONS. 150 Primary Vaccinations have been performed during the year, being 37% of the children born.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the Year 1925

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained			Cases removed to Hospital
Small Pox			
Scarlet Fever	17		
Diphtheria including Mem. Croup	5		
Enteric Fever — Typhoid	1		
Enteric Fever — Paratyphoid			
Pneumonia	28		
Puerperal Fever	3		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever			
Acute Polio-myelitis			
Acute Polio Encephalitis			
Encephalitis Lethargica			
Typhus Fever			
Relapsing Fever Continued Fever			
Trench Fever			
Dysentery			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	9	
Erysipelas	9		
Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only)	53		
Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only)	15		
Malaria — Contracted Abroad			
Malaria — Contracted in England			
Chickenpox (not notified)	*		
Measles (excluding German Measles)	26		
Whooping Cough (not notified)	†		
Other Diseases	-		
Small Pox			
Diphtheria		5	17
Scarlet Fever			
Enteric Fever			1
Other Encephalitis Lethargica			

*Fairly Numerous. †A Number

Particulars of Notifiable Diseases for Five Years

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	Deaths
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	24	34	54	50	17	179	3
Measles ...	5	238	165	716	26	1150	16
Diphtheria ...	6	4	6	10	5	31	5
Typhoid Fever ...	21	0	3	4	1	29	4
Erysipelas ...	13	6	12	5	9	45	0
Ophthalmia ...	3	1	1	1	1	7	0
Tuberculosis ...	64	53	65	43	68	293	81
Pneumonia ...	14	17	28	31	28	118	107
Puerperal Fever ...	3	0	1	0	3	7	5

TUBERCULOSIS. I have had notified to me during the year, 68 cases, 53 of these being Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 15 other forms of the disease. 14 deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 from other Tuberculous Diseases. This gives a Death Rate of 1·0.

During the last five years, the Notifications and Deaths were :

Year	Notified	Deaths
1921	64	18
1922	53	10
1923	65	18
1924	43	19
1925	68	16

Particulars of Cases Notified during 1925

Age	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Male	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Female	Other Forms Male	Other Forms Female
Under 1 Year ...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5 Years ...	...	1	3	1
5 to 10 ,, ...	3	4	4	1
10 to 15 ,, ...	4	3	1	2
15 to 20 ,, ...	4	3	1	...
20 to 25 ,, ...	4	3	...	1
25 to 35 ,, ...	4	6	...	1
35 to 45 ,, ...	6	2	...	...
45 to 55 ,, ...	4	...	...	...
55 and upwards ...	2	...	...	...
Total ...	31	22	9	6

The appended Analyses show that the disease is more prevalent in the Male than the Female. It likewise demonstrates the fact that, in our area, there is no diminution of this terrible disease. Want of adequate ventilation, absence of sunlight, and defective nutrition, are the chief causes of this affection, and each of these causes is in evidence amongst us. There is scarcely a week but what your Sanitary Inspector requires me to view the carcase of a tuberculous animal, which would have been sold for consumption but for his energetic action.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis admitted to a Sanatorium in 1925 was 35.

CANCER. 13 deaths from Malignant Disease have been registered during the year. How many more may have recovered as the result of operation by the Surgeon, I am unable to say, as it is not a notifiable disease. This is a disease that develops in the human being during the later half of life.

Of the 13 deaths recorded, the youngest was 41, and the eldest 75, the average age being 54.

The Deaths registered during the last five years were :—

1921	-	10
1922	-	12
1923	-	18
1924	-	11
1925	-	13

At present, no explanation can be offered for the cause of its existence or growth, beyond saying that Chronic irritation is a frequent pre-disposing cause, and early medical advice is the only hope of successful treatment.

HOUSING. There is still a great demand for Houses, and at present a waiting list of over 300. There have been 69 houses completed and occupied during 1925, making a total of 3,092. In process of erection, but not completed, are another 49, and a scheme for 190 more is on foot, to be erected at an early date. My Council has very wisely selected sites for building those houses in detached areas, so that the congestion is less marked. There are fewer houses per acre in the scheme, and my Council are most anxious to reduce the overcrowding in their new houses, by preventing the tenants taking in other families. They have very wisely issued instructions that no tenant will be allowed to take as Lodger, anyone known to be suffering from Tuberculosis ; nor any family having a Tuberculous case in the house will be allowed to take any Lodger.

SANITARY WORK. The WATER SUPPLY is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. The amount of water consumed during 1925 was 136,813,000 gallons, at a total cost of £7,410 2s. 9d.

The DRAINAGE SYSTEM is fairly satisfactory, and the two Sewage Farms carefully attended to.

The SCAVENGING is done by the Council, and the Refuse is either burned in the Destructor, or tipped at the Sewage Farm. See my Inspector's Report for details.

During the year we have abolished 137 Privies and 66 Wet Ashpits, and replaced them with 156 Water Closets, 2 pails, 38 Dry Ashpits and 67 Dust-Bins. All new houses are provided with W.C's and Dust-Bins.

I regret that certain Private Streets have not had the attention that they ought to have received, but the Housing Scheme has absorbed the whole labour. I only express the wish that this necessary work will be undertaken as soon as circumstances will allow.

I would like to place on record the valuable and ungrudging work done by my Sanitary Inspector. He has spared no effort in carrying out all my instructions, and attending to the Council's interests. These new Meat Regulations take up a lot of his time, and at times are unpleasant to execute. I would refer you to his Report and the details in Tables C & D.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. Two Meetings per week are held, one at Streethouse on Monday, and the other at Featherstone on Wednesday. Both meetings are well attended by Mothers and Babies. A Ladies' Committee of voluntary workers superintends the meetings, as well as your Medical Officer and Health Visitor.

Free Milk, or Glaxo, is given in necessitous cases, or otherwise sold at cost price.

A REVIEW.

On making an examination of the last Five Years' Work and Expenditure in seeking to make this Urban Area a progressive one, both in health and comfort, one sees improvements in many ways, but also much to deplore and far from being ideal. The war has left many human beings permanently disabled, and the stagnation in building, leading to bad overcrowding, produced many more unhealthy people, the harvest of which has by no means reached its full extent.

The Population in 1921 was 15,110, and notwithstanding all the houses built, it only reaches 15,890, giving us an increase of 780. Such are the figures given me by the Registrar General. During those five years, 166 new houses have been built and occupied, and as many more are in process of being built, or contemplated. Fewer houses are being built upon each acre of ground, which will provide for more air space; and in addition, my Council have wisely selected sites wide apart, instead of dumping them in one congested

area. As soon as the houses become more numerous, my Council will have to give serious consideration to many houses that are detrimental to the health of those inhabiting them. Many of those houses are "back to back," and likewise too small for the families occupying them, such as we found in Torre Street, etc. Many other houses, such as England Buildings, are sadly needing repairs, and are likewise too adjacent to the Colliery Spoil heap.

During the last five years, my Sanitary Authority have abolished 423 Privy Middens, and replaced them with 462 Water Closets. All new houses are furnished on the Water Carriage System. We have now 1801 Water Closets and 608 Privies with covered middens. Each year sees a reduction in the latter type.

Overcrowding is prevalent throughout the whole area. Not only have we overcrowding of houses in an area, but still more the overcrowding of persons in a house. Lack of houses is no doubt the chief cause, but I cannot withold blame from many who so recklessly, regardless of health, take in lodgers, to the detriment of their families, and to the spread of infectious disease.

Smoke. I do not only refer to the domestic chimney, the fire of which in all colliery areas is usually kept going day and night, but a much greater nuisance are the volumes of dense smoke and poisonous fumes from the three Spoil Heaps, all of large size, and daily growing. This state of matters has now reached such proportions, that my Council is seeking measures to put an end to it. It is a difficult question to solve, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it is most injurious to health. The latest suggestion to remove the tipping from the South side of the railway to the North side, is no remedy whatever. It will burn and pour out its deleterious products at either place, and the inhabitants will still be in its embrace.

Overcrowding, a smoky and contaminated atmosphere, and the apathy and carelessness of many householders in not keeping their own immediate surroundings clean and tidy, take their toll of human life, and very largely contribute to the general sickness and high Infantile Mortality, and to the prevalence of Tuberculosis in the area.

I would like to see the Council insisting on the proper paving of back yards, and the back streets channelled and macadamised.

Infectious Diseases. Measles and Influenza, although no doubt microbic in origin, depend so much on atmospheric conditions, that the agencies affecting their spread are difficult to circumscribe. In 1921, Measles was not notifiable, but the last four years show an incidence of 1144 cases, with 16 deaths. Influenza, although not notifiable, pays us at least one epidemic per year, leaving the victims debilitated, and the more ready for a future attack.

Scarlet Fever is difficult to account for its presence and spread. It occurs sporadically, and does not seem to be reduced in numbers by Isolation treatment. No "shick" test has been attempted in our area.

Diphtheria, less common than Scarlet Fever, is also sporadic, but the death rate is considerably greater. During the last five years, 1·6% of the cases of Scarlet Fever died, while 16·1% of the Diphtheric cases ended fatally.

Typhoid. During the last five years, 29 cases have been reported, but 21 of these occurred in 1921, in the township of Loscoe, the cause of which outbreak was specially reported by me to the Ministry.

Cancer. 64 deaths in five years. The causes and origin of this painful disease are unknown, and it shows no diminution in its incidence.

Tuberculosis. Notwithstanding all the earnest efforts and lavish expenditure on Sanatoria and Dispensaries, this disease shows no abatement in our area. For the last five years, 293 cases have been notified, with 81 deaths. During 1925, the County Council sent 35 cases to a Sanatorium. I am unable to give the number of cases sent the previous four years.

Although this area is undrained, the soil, I cannot say, is a damp or humid one. Overcrowding, without doubt, is very prevalent, and the ventilation in many houses is wholly inadequate. A smoky atmosphere, shutting out the sun's rays, must be an attributable agency. The trade of Coal Mining, although leading to Bronchitis, is not to my mind a cause. The workmen certainly drink considerable quantities of Beer, still I consider alcoholism plays only a small part in the causation.

I would seriously draw your attention to a factor that is very disturbing. Since the Meat Regulation Act came into force on April 1st, 1925, up to December 31st, 61 carcases, that would otherwise have been exposed for sale in this district, were found to be affected with Tuberculosis in some part of the carcase, or in one or more of the organs. The majority of those carcases were cows, that had been supplying milk some short time previously.

Inspection of our herds is urgently desirable by those in authority. Nor am I sure that the average householder is awakened to the latest danger of sheltering a Tuberculous case, or the false economy of buying cheap butchers' meat.

Diarrhœa. This disease is less in evidence during the last few years than it used to be. We have a few cases during Autumn, but of no great moment.

Venereal Diseases. I see very few cases now. They either do not exist, or the victims seek advice at Venereal Clinics, unknown to me.

General Sickness. All Colliery Areas have their full complement of general diseases. As a General Practitioner, with a fairly large Panel List as well as private patients, I have figures for some years, showing that 70% of my Panel Patients consult me every year, and each of those Patients gets, annually, 6·3 attendances and medicine, either at my surgery, or at their homes. I can speak with equal confidence about the wives and families and others not on the Panel, that the necessity for Medical advice is not less numerous or urgent.

In conclusion, I most sincerely thank the Members of my Council for at all times being anxious and willing to help me in carrying out my duties as Health Officer.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. STEVEN,

M. O. H.

URBAN DISTRICT OF FEATHERSTONE.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Featherstone Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Second Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in my Department, during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

During the period in question, the work of the Sanitary Department has increased greatly and still further duties have been placed upon us. The year is notable for the coming into operation on the 1st of April, of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The amount of work entailed in the carrying out of this Order has meant that more time has had to be devoted to this branch of the work. Meat Inspection and the supervision of the food supply of the District is of the utmost importance, and time spent in this direction is time well spent. The clerical work also is constantly increasing, and much time has had to be devoted to the keeping of the various records, preparing reports and the ordinary office routine. When it is considered that we have the same administrative staff to-day as was employed many years ago, and that apart from the many additional duties imposed upon us there has been a steady increase in the population, it is not surprising that the question of the re-organisation of the Sanitary Department is a matter that will call for your consideration in the near future.

Abatement of Nuisances. During the year 255 informal and 5 statutory notices were served. 2,031 inspections were made for the abatement of nuisances and 621 nuisances were re-

medied during the year. Of the 260 notices served, 232 have been complied with, including the five statutory notices, and 28 notices were still outstanding at the end of the year. In addition to these notices, a large number of interviews took place with owners of property, contractors etc.

Disinfections. Disinfections are carried out by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants. During 1925, the following dwelling houses were so treated on account of the diseases mentioned :-

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	5
Typhoid Fever	1
Tuberculosis	35

In addition, all the Schools in the District were, as a precautionary measure, sprayed during the Mid-Summer vacation.

Disinfection is carried out in the case of Tuberculosis as follows :-

(1). When there is a change of tenancy and the occupier or any member of the household is a sufferer.
(2). After the removal of a patient to a Sanatorium.
(3). After death.

Housing. 139 houses were inspected during the year and were dealt with under the various Acts and Regulations. There is still a great Housing shortage in the District, and this being the case, it is not feasible to proceed with the dealing of back-to-back houses. It is also impossible to deal with the many cases, some of them serious cases, of overcrowding that are constantly being met with. This work is of necessity left in abeyance, but when the time does come, and these problems can be proceeded with, it will mean that strenuous efforts will have to be made to deal with the question.

Scavenging. The revised arrangements for the Cleansing Department have been in operation for eleven out of the twelve months under review. The work was re-organised in accordance with my Report and I am pleased to be able to state that a very great improvement has been effected in this branch of the work. Ashpits of all types are now emptied at regular and frequent intervals, and in the case of dust bins a weekly collection takes place.

Some of the great difficulties that have had to be overcome, and are still a source of difficulty, are the lack of uniformity with regard to the size of the receptacle for containing the ashes, the varying number of houses using one ashpit and also in many cases where dust-bins have been provided, two families

are very frequently in occupation of the dwelling, and while one dustbin would probably be sufficient for one family it is not adequate for two.

When these, and other difficulties, are taken into consideration, I believe our cleansing arrangements will bear favourable comparison with any similar area in the country.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and all the ashpits are emptied by our own men.

During the year we received delivery of our third Ford tipper, and this has helped considerably in the more systematic cleansing of the District.

Conversions. During 1925, 137 privies and 66 middens were abolished and 156 water closets, 2 pails, 35 dry ashpits and 67 dustbins were substituted.

This is very satisfactory considering that all these conversions were done under Sec. 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

During the year I prepared a special Report upon the question of privy midden conversion. I would like to again point out that if the privy middens are to be abolished and progress maintained, action will have to be taken on the lines of my Report, and I would again urge that serious consideration be given to the matter.

A privy midden can only be dealt with as :-

(a). A nuisance
(b). As insufficient
(c). Under Sec. 39 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

(a) and (b) are only applicable to isolated cases, and if any general scheme of conversion is intended, and this is very desirable, the only course open to the Council is to proceed under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907. The abolition of all privy middens is an urgent problem and I would again call your attention to this question.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. The usual visits have been made to the Dairies, Cowsheds etc., in the various parts of the area. Practically all the milk consumed in the District is produced locally and is of very good quality so far as the chemical composition of the milk is concerned. This being the case, our efforts are devoted to impressing upon the cow-keepers

the urgent need for more cleanly methods in the production of the milk, and special attention is drawn and efforts made to convince the producers that such a course is a sound commercial proposition so far as they themselves are concerned apart from any advantage that may accrue to the public. For the production of clean milk, elaborate buildings are not necessary, and the cleanest milk can be produced in buildings that are far from ideal. All th at is necessary is the adoption of clean methods, thorough cleansing of the udder and flanks, regular grooming of the cattle, clean buildings, personal cleanliness on the part of the milkers; these and kin lred matters are of far greater importance so far as clean milk production goes than elaborate and costly buildings. These matters are pressed upon the farmers, firstly as an aid to the production of clean milk and secondly as measures likely to promote the health and comfort of the animals, which after all is a factor worthy of consideration.

Much remains to be done, but much has already been accomplished.

During the year we had one outbreak of Anthrax, but I am pleased to say that only one cow was affected, and there has, up to date been no further outbreak on the premises.

Several cases were reported to the Police on behalf of the County Authority of cows suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis, and the necessary action taken.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. During the year, 37 samples of milk, 32 of milk and 5 of separated milk, were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst. One of the samples contained only 2.96 per cent of milk fat. The whole of the papers in connection with these 37 samples were sent to the County Medical Officer of Health, and the vendor of the sample reported to be deficient in fat was cautioned by the Legal Department of the County Hall. Two other samples, although containing the minimum amount of fat etc., were reported to be poor in quality. The 37 samples taken in 1925, compares with 22 samples in 1924 and 20 in 1923.

Slaughterhouses. There are now twelve licensed slaughterhouses in the District, a decrease of one. Visits are frequently paid to these places for the inspection of the various animals and carcases that are being prepared for human consumption. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations came into operation on the 1st of April 1925, and I was appointed the Officer to act under this Order. A perusal of the table adjoining will show the great amount of work done. Every attempt is made to inspect the animals at the time of slaughter, but with slaughterhouses scattered all over a large area, it is impossible to give the attention that undoubtedly should be given to this work. The only

satisfactory method of meat inspection is where ante mortem as well as post mortem inspection is possible and where the Inspector is present at the time of slaughter and is thus able to inspect all organs as they are removed from the carcase.

All meat shops, stalls etc., are regularly inspected.

List of Meat, etc. Surrendered and Destroyed during the Year 1925.

Carcase, Organ, etc.	Disease or Condition causing Unfitness for Human Consumption														
	Tuberculosis	Fevered Flesh	Echinococci	Strongylosis	Distomatosis	Abscesses	Cavernous Angioma	Pneumonia	Cirrhosis	Bacterial Necrosis	Actinomycosis	Mammitis	Ill Bled	Decomposition	TOTAL
Whole Carcases and all Organs of															
Cows ...	6	1													7
Bullocks ...	1														1
Heifers ...	1														1
Pigs ...	1														1
Organ or Part of a Carcase—															
Forequarters	4														4
Heads (incl. tongues ...	15										2				17
Lungs ...	35		3					1					2		41
Hearts ...	7												2		9
Skirts ...	7														7
Stomachs ...	5												2		7
Spleens ...	9												2		11
Livers ...	14		2	1	8	1	2		2	1			2		33
Kidneys ...	2														2
Intestines (incl. fat)...	28												2		30
Udders ...	2												2		4
Rabbits ...														30	30

Offensive Trades. The only offensive trade carried on in the District is that of Tripe Boiling. The premises are kept under observation and are kept in a clean condition.

Full details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Department will be found in Table C.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the courtesy shown to me during the year, and also the Medical Officer of Health for the help and assistance he has so readily given me in the carrying out of many difficult duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. SYKES HANDFORTH,
A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

FEATHERSTONE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
— YEAR 1925 —

TABLE C.

Nuisance Inspections.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1925, for Nuisances only	2031
Nuisances reported in 1925	624
Nuisances in hand, end of 1924	159
Total needing abatement	783
Abated during 1925	621
Outstanding end of 1925	162
Notices served, Informal	255
Complied with	227
Notices served, Statutory	5
Complied with	5
Total Number of Summonses or other legal proceedings	None
Cleansing of Filthy Houses	21
Any Notices served under Sec. 46 of P.H.A. 1875 ...	Verbal Notices

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in Dist'ct	No. on Regi't'r	Tot. No Inspections made	General Condition	Legal Proceed'gs if any
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...
Houses let in Lodgings...	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	...
Knackers' Yards ...	...	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans and Sheds...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	1	1	12	Tripe Boiler Good	...

Have the Council declared any other process to be offensive trades ... ... No

Drainage and Sewerage.

Developments during 1925	No
Developments still needed as to	
(a) Want of Sewers	None
(b) Improvement of defective sewers :	Some sewers affected by mining subsidence
Sewage Disposal Works	
(a) Any inadequacy	No
(b) Any complaints	No
Any sink wastes still needing disconnection	No

Closet Accommodation.

Number of Privies with open middens	None
,, Pail or Tub Closets	19
,, Privies with covered middens	608
,, Water Closets	1801
,, Waste Water-Closets	9
,, Privies re-constructed during 1925	
(a) W.C's	133
(b) Other	2
No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1925	
(a) W.C's	23
(b) Other	None
No. of Closets constructed in 1925 for new houses	
(a) W.C's	69
(b) Other	None

Scavenging.

Any change during 1925	No
Performed by	
(a) Council	Yes
(b) Contractor	No
(c) Owners or Occupiers	No
How is refuse disposed of	
No of loads to (a) Destructor ...	4733
(b) Tips	9850
(c) Farmers ...	None
Total annual cost	£2963 0 0
Is there any inadequacy	No
Any utilisation of waste material	No

Water Supply.

Any developments during 1925	No
Restricted in any way	No
Any general insufficiency	No
Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality ...	No
Any new sources added	No
Any disused sources re-used	No

Milk Supply.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act (a) For Retailers ; (b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders	Yes
Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of	
Certified milk	No
Grade A	No
Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)	No
Grade A (Pasteurised)	No
Pasteurised	No
Have any retailers been removed from the Register ...	No
Number of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts	37
Number adulterated	1
What arrangement for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows	When necessary
Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1925 ...	No
No. of Milk Cows kept in district	269
No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk ...	29
No. Registered	29
No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers ...	12
No. who are Milk Retailers only	12
Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered	24
Total No. of Cowsheds	59
Total No. of Inspections in 1925	148
Cowkeepers	118
Retailers	30
Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations	1898
Any Legal Action	No
Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent	No

Other Foods.

No of seizures of unsound food	All surrendered
Kind and quantity	Meat, organs, etc. See List
No. of Prosecutions	None
Any Public Abattoir	No
No. of Slaughterhouses	12
Licenced	12
Unsatisfactory, structurally or in bad position ...	5
No. of times each Slaughterhouse inspected	28
Total Inspections	336
No. of Prosecutions	
(a) Food and Drugs	None
(b) Unsound Food	None
(c) Slaughterhouses	None
Bakehouses	4
Any underground...	No
Total No. of Inspections	6

SCHOOLS.

No of Schools in District	7
No. visited by M.O.H.	7

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	Yes
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	Yes
,, ,, ,, 1907	Yes

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, Scavenging, Prevention of Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, New Streets and Buildings, Alteration of Buildings, Slaughterhouses	1879

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1925	None

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

General—Accident, Yes	Children, Yes
	Leeds Infirmary, Clayton Hospital, Pontefract Infirmary
Local—Hospital, Cottage	No
Infectious, General. Yes.	Aketon Isolation Hospital
Smallpox. Yes.	Glasshoughton Smallpox H.
Maternity—Yes ...	Leeds Maternity Hospital
Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases ...	No
Clinic and Treatment Centre not provided by County Council Scheme	No
Whether any other disease (e.g. Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital...	No
Any change or extension of	
(a) General Infectious Hospital	No
(b) Smallpox Hospital	No

TUBERCULOSIS.

Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Home visited and general instructions given	
Examination for contacts ...	At T. B. Dispensary
Is house disinfected	Yes
When	After death, removal to Sanatorium, change of tenancy
Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed	Yes
Action re Spitting	Flasks
Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary	Yes
Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T. B. in sputum	Reported to M.O. at Dispensary
Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners ...	Yes

INFANT MORTALITY.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare ...	Yes
Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants	Yes, to necessitous cases

VITAL STATISTICS.

No. of Still Births during 1925	19
Gross Deaths during 1925—Males...	85
Females	73

MORTUARIES.

For Accidents	1
For infectious cases other than at hospital ...	... None
For other purposes	... None

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.	£120 and £30 for Child Welfare
Name of Sanitary Inspector ...	C. Sykes Handforth
Annual Salary as Inspector	... £310
Other appointments held	...Housing Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent and Officer under P.H. (Meat) Regulations
Salary for such other appointments ...	... None
Any Assistants	Scavenging Foreman
Is Staff sufficient	... No
Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health ...	... Yes

FEATHERSTONE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1925

TABLE D.

Houses with minor defects	41
Total inspected and recorded	139
Houses found satisfactory on inspection	73
Houses needing further action	66
Houses found with defects	4
Houses in regard to which formal notices were served ...	4
Houses made fit after formal notice	4
Houses with defects	62
Houses remedied without service of formal notice ...	11
Houses in regard to which formal notices were served ...	51
Houses made satisfactory after formal notice	33
Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1925—	
Houses with minor defects	18

Other Action in Regard to Housing.

Total number of houses in district...	3092
Number of working-class houses	3058
Obstructive Buildings—	
Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890, or Sec. 1925 Act	No
Any building represented by Local Government Electors under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act, or by Justice of the Peace, Parish Council, or 4 Government Electors under Sec. 10, 1925 Act	No
Unhealthy Areas—	
Any representations under part I or II of 1890 Act or part II of 1925 Act	No
Reconstruction Schemes—	
Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act or part II of 1925 Act	No
Conversion of Houses—	
Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements under the 1919 Act or of closed houses under Sec. 4, 1925 Act	No
Penalty on re-letting houses ordered to be closed—	
Any action under Sec. 12 of 1925 Act	No
Unfit Houses—	
Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Section 31 of 1890 Acts as amended by the 1923 Act or Section 10, 1025	No
Any complaints by Parish Councils under Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894 ...	No

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923 ... ... No
Any scarcity of houses ... ... All over district
Any overcrowding in houses ... ... General
Any special activity in house building Streethouse & Purston
Any regulations made in repect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 17 (7) 1909 Act, or under Sec. 18, 1925 Act ... ... No
Total number of houses built in the district under state aided and all conditions in 1925—
Working Class dwellings 69

STATE-AIDED HOUSING SCHEMES.

A—Scheme under 1919 Act—
Number of houses erected in 1925 by Council ... None
,, Private Builders Subsidy None
B—Scheme under 1923 Act—
Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act ... Yes
Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval ... ... Yes
Has it been approved ... ... Yes
Is assistance given to private individuals—
By lump sum ... ... Yes
How much ... ... £100 and £50 for Bungalow
Number of houses completed by—
Local Authority under this scheme in 1925 ... 42
Private Persons do. ... 27
C—Scheme under 1924 Act—
Number of houses provisionally approved by Ministry 190
,, specifically approved by Ministry 100
Total number of houses provided under all state aided schemes in 1925 69

TOWN PLANNING.

Have Council joined Regional Town Planning Committee in 1925 ... ... No
Have Council passed resolution in 1925 to prepare a scheme No
Any scheme contemplated ... ... No
Have Council propounded a scheme in 1925 ... ... No
Has a scheme been finally approved by the Ministry of Health in 1925 ... ... No
Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1925 ... ... No
Has a preliminary statement been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval in 1925 ... ... No

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations C. Sykes Handforth,
Council Offices, Featherstone